

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR 1940.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

In 1940, the estimated resident population was 5,958.

During the year, the births of 47 boys and 40 girls were registered, a total of 87. 2 Still births were registered. This gives a birth rate of 14.6 per thousand, the birth rate for England & Wales being 14.6 per thousand. The still birth rate is 0.33 per thousand and for England & Wales is 0.55 per thousand.

41 Males and 42 Females were registered as having died, a total of 83, giving a death rate of 13.9 per thousand. The corresponding figure for England & Wales is 14.3 per thousand.

2 Deaths of infants under one year of age, were registered, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 23, the Infant Mortality Rate for England & Wales being 55.

I have deemed it not inappropriate to make some concise observations about the effects of war conditions upon the civilian population. These effects may conveniently be divided into two classes.

First, casualties fatal or otherwise among civilians, directly due to enemy action.

In this connection, I remind the Council that in September, 1939 I asked the members and the population at large to cultivate a sense of proportion. Again I write that it is equally as bad to be run over and killed by a Rolls Royce, die suddenly from cerebral haemorrhage, acute pneumonia, infectious diseases, particularly diphtheria, deaths in childbed, etc. as it is to be blown or burnt to death by enemy action.

The A.R.P. Services have kept pace in development with the country's general effort, but I cannot conceal from myself that if the intense interest, zeal, ingenuity and collective self sacrifice and money, devoted to this end, had even in a very small way been applied to the prevention of avoidable deaths during the years of peace, as far as death rate, sickness rate and birth rate, are concerned, England, Scotland, Wales, etc. would have been tremendously better off. Even now every year 3,000 children die of diphtheria in this country.

With regard to the effect on the general health, due to the restrictions of various food-stuffs, the period of drastic rationing has been far too short to enable me to make conclusions.

With regard to the restrictions of petrol, the only general results so far observed, is an increase in road-deaths, more particularly in broad daylight. Whether these accidents be of Military or civilian origin, I have no statistics.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

10 Cases of Scarlet Fever, 3 Cases of Diphtheria, 1 Case of Whooping Cough, 1 Case of Erysipelas, 201 Cases of Measles and 1 Case of Pneumonia were notified to me during the year.

With the exception of the epidemic of Measles, the incidence of Infectious Diseases has been of normal extent and severity.

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) A. GORDON WILSON,

M.B., L.S.M., M.O.H.



